

REMARKS

The claims have been amended as needed so as to take care of the formal matters identified by the Examiner.

The allowance of claims 34, 46 and 47 is noted with thanks. Accordingly, the limitations of claims 34 and 46 have been added to their respective base claims 32 and 43, thereby placing these latter claims in condition for allowance and with them the claims that depend therefrom.

Naturally, claims 34 and 46 are cancelled as redundant of thus-amended claims 32 and 43.

As the present amendment seeks only to place the application in condition for allowance with claims previously indicated to be allowable, it is not believed to be necessary to discuss the prior art again at this time.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Of course, if any point still needs attention, the Examiner has only to call the undersigned, and whatever is needed will be done at once.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

Application No. 09/831,026
Amdt. dated February 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 5, 2003
Docket No. 6502-1016

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

RJP/lk